

**KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE  
ANIAKCHAK NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE  
ALAGNAK WILD RIVER**

Superintendent's Order for 2004 Compendium and Determination of Need for  
Backcountry Camping

**36 CFR 13.30 Temporary closures and restrictions (d)(2) (other)**

**2003 Superintendent's Order: Backcountry Camping:**

Backcountry Camping-effective from June 1 – September 1

Camping within 3 miles of the Katmai Coast is limited in one location up to 7 consecutive nights. Camp must be moved at least one mile from its previous location. Camp may not be returned to the original site for a period of at least 14 days.

Camping in all other locations is limited to 14 consecutive nights in one location at which time the camp must be moved at least one mile.

For the purposes of this section, camping is defined as any planned overnight stay in the backcountry areas of the above listed parks, excluding stays at the Brooks Campground or Commercial Lodges.

*This limitation is to prevent long term occupancy of campsites other groups may wish to use, minimize campsite deterioration and disruption of wildlife use patterns.*

**36 CFR 1.5 Closures and public use limits.**

(c) Except in emergency situations, prior to implementing or terminating a restriction, condition, public use limit or closure, the superintendent shall prepare a written determination justifying the action.

**Determination of Need**

The 2003 Superintendent's Order limiting camping to 7 consecutive nights within 3 miles of the Katmai coast has been found not to accomplish its intended purpose. In high use areas this Order created additional impacts by moving camps multiple times with popular sites continuously occupied. A limitation of 14 consecutive nights with a move of two miles has proven to be adequate in other areas. This rule will provide consistency within the park areas and on contiguous State of Alaska owned lands.

To address growing popularity of camping associated with bear viewing at Hallo Bay a short term, site-specific restriction will be implemented for the 2004 season. The area closed to camping will be limited to the core meadow areas and duration limited to a period of time that coincides with heavy use of the sedge

meadows as a seasonal food sources by bears. This restriction will be established in a manner that makes camping areas available on the periphery of the meadows and near primary access points providing reasonable access for day use by campers. The purpose of this restriction is to minimize displacement of bears from critical feeding sites, prevent user group conflicts, and reduce bear/human confrontations in camp situations.

Other management options were considered including camping by permit or registration only, designated sites, and management zones. The park considered extensive comment on this issue from individuals, organizations, and the State of Alaska. Most of these comments supported some type of restriction on camping in the Hallo Bay meadows with designated sites recommended by a majority of the commenters. Each of these alternatives was considered but found more restrictive than necessary to achieve the stated purpose. The park also lacks appropriate planning, compliance, and resources to establish designated sites or a registration system at the time.

Consistent with 36 CFR 13.30(d)(2) and 13.30(f) this temporary restriction, including site map, will be available at visitor centers and offices, on the park's web site, posted locally, and distributed to users through commercial operators.

**36 CFR 13.30 temporary closures and restrictions.**

**(d)(2)** other temporary closures shall be effective upon notice as prescribed in 13.30 (f).

**2004 Superintendent's Order: Backcountry Camping**

Camping within all park areas other than the Brooks Camp Developed area is limited to 14 consecutive days at one location. After 14 days of use a camp and all associated equipment must be moved at least two miles.

*This limitation is to prevent long term occupancy of campsites that other groups may wish to use and minimize campsite deterioration.*

Camping is prohibited in the core Hallo Bay Meadows as shown in Appendix C from May 15<sup>th</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup>.

*This restriction is intended to prevent conflicts with bears and visitors at prime feeding sites that attract bears and bear viewers while providing for overnight camping in the area.*

For the purposes of this section, camping is defined as any planned overnight stay within park areas.